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O 301024Z DEC 08
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1086
INFO RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHJS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS PRIORITY
RHHJJPI/USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 5773
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 3456
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 1542
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 1529
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 0625
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 2551
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 5277
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 2898
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 3377
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 002344

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR D, P, EAP, EAP/MTS, EAP/RSP, EAP/MLS, PM, PM/PPA,
L, L/T, L/DL, L/PM
SECDEF FOR USDP/ISA/APSP D.WALTON AND OGC
JOINT STAFF FOR R.CARTER
NSC FOR E.PHU

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/30/2018

TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [PGOV](#) [ID](#)

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR URGES SWIFT COMPLETION OF DEFENSE
COOPERATION MOU

REF: JAKARTA 2210 AND PREVIOUS

Classified By: DCM John A. Heffern, reasons 1.4 (b+d).

¶1. (C) SUMMARY: Ambassador Hume met December 30 with a key
GOI defense official and urged Indonesia to sign a memorandum
of understanding (MOU) on defense cooperation with the United
States as quickly as possible. Indonesian officials hope to
complete their review of the U.S.-proposed text soon and are
keen to sign the MOU. END SUMMARY.

URGING SWIFT PROGRESS

¶2. (C) Ambassador Hume discussed the proposed U.S.-Indonesia
defense cooperation MOU with Major General Syarifudin Tippe,
Director General for Defense Strategy at the Department of
Defense (DEPHAN), on December 30. (Note: On December 5,
Mission had provided DEPHAN with the U.S. response to the
Indonesian-drafted MOU text--see reftel.) The Ambassador
underscored that the U.S.'s suggested changes to the MOU
retained the spirit of the original DEPHAN draft and
reflected both countries' preference for a nonbinding
agreement. He noted that the MOU formalized our already
ongoing defense cooperation activities and urged that we sign
it as soon as possible.

GOI EAGER TO SIGN

¶3. (C) Tippe, who met Defense Minister Sudarsono on the
matter earlier that same day, said DEPHAN's legal department
was still reviewing the text and hoped to complete it soon.
He noted that Minister Sudarsono was particularly pleased
that the USG had accepted the GOI's proposed title for the
document: "Memorandum of Understanding Between the
Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the Government of
the United States of America on Cooperative Activities in the
Field of Defense." He did not have any other substantive
reactions to the U.S. text, but said that Indonesia was eager
to sign the MOU.

LEGISLATURE'S ROLE CLARIFIED

14. (C) Tippe explained that GOI officials believe that DEPHAN has the authority to sign the MOU but would have to report doing so to the Indonesian House of Representatives (DPR). While the DPR had the right to review all GOI agreements regarding defense, this review did not have to be completed before DEPHAN signed the MOU. The Ambassador agreed that this would allow us to move forward quickly.

HUME